

Dec. 15.

Scotch Herring Industry.

The second annual dinner of the Scotch herring buyers trading at Lowestoft during the autumn fishing took place recently. Bailie Mackie, of Fraserburgh, presided, and in referring to the magnitude of the fishing industry, said there were fishing from the port of Lowestoft this season 275 Lowestoft steam drifters, 52 Lowestoft sailing drifters, 261 Scotch steam drifters, 20 Scotch motor drifters, 125 Scotch sailing drifters, making a total of 733 herring and mackerel drifters, besides a fleet of 289 Lowestoft trawling smacks and 32 trawlers belonging to other ports, but at the time being fishing from Lowestoft—making a total of 1054 fishing vessels from that port. That great fleet was manned by over 7000 fishermen. He estimated that the drifters fishing from that port at the present time burned almost 40,000 tons of coal during the herring season, which lasted about eight weeks.

Herring at Rencontre, N. F.

A St. John's, N. F., exchange says: "Three seiners at Rencontre have about 1000 barrels barred. The herring here are of a very large size. The seiners expect to be able to hold them for two weeks more. One local schooner is loading here for Gloucester and will leave in a couple of days. The fishermen intend to hold off for \$1.50 when the Americans come for frozen herring, as they believe the short catch on the New England and Nova Scotia coasts will warrant that price. It is believed that herrings may now be had in Placentia and Conception Bays if the fishermen had the outfit to catch them."

Herring Trap Taken Up.

Already the traps at Eastham and Brewster have been taken up for the winter. These places supplied a good share of the large herring received in the Boston market within the last month.

Dec. 16.

MEMORY IN FISH. Experiments Show Also That They Can Differentiate Colors.

Even the fishes of the sea have pictures on memory's wall. Experiments have been made with several fishes as to their faculties for remembering, and the most striking results have been obtained with the gray perch, which lives chiefly on small silvery hued sardines. Some of these were taken and colored red and were then put into the tank where the perch was with several silver colored sardines. Of course the normal sardines were at once seized and eaten, but it was not until hungry that the perch made a tentative meal of one of the red colored victims.

On recognizing the sardine flavor, however, he promptly demolished the remainder. Later the perch devoured the sardines irrespective of color, thus showing not only traces of a memory, but also the power to differentiate color.

Subsequently sardines colored red and blue were placed in the tank together with the silver ones. The same scene was repeated, the blue sardines not being attacked until the others were eaten and hunger compelled investigation of the newcomers. After this introduction the perch ate the sardines of all three types without any difficulty.

Some spines of the sea nettle were then fastened to the blue sardines. These were at once avoided by the perch, which promptly got out of the way of the newcomers. This showed traces of memory, as the results of contact with the sea nettle were shown and recognized.

Dec. 16.

HERRING CHANGING LOCATION.

Fleet Chasing Them to the Different Arms at Bay of Islands.

Advices from the Newfoundland treaty coast state that during the past few days the body of herring in Bay of Islands have been shifting from one arm to another, with the fleet chasing them all over the bay. The herring taken in the Humber Arm run larger than those taken at other parts of the bay. The weather holds fairly good, the snow is about four inches on the level and it has not been cold enough to freeze herring.

Dec. 16.

Record Breaking Lobster Season Expected.

F. J. Calder, Dominion Inspector of Fisheries, who arrived in St. John, N. B., on Tuesday, after a trip down the Bay of Fundy coast, says that he looks for a record breaking lobster season. Since the season opened the catch has been large, and the fishermen who had such poor results during the autumn, are rejoicing.

Good Stocks Made.

Sch. W. H. Moody, Capt. Thomas Crowell, stocked \$1,800 as the result of her recent fine Georges handline trip.

Sch. George Parker, Capt. Rufus McKay, stocked \$2,050 as the result of her recent haddocking trip.

New Schooner Towed From Essex.

The new sch. Elk was towed around from Essex yesterday and will have her spars stepped and rigging set up at once.

Fishing Fleet Movements.

Sch. Olga was at Louisburg, C. B., Tuesday and cleared.

SHELLFISH WITH NO SHELLS.

Nudibranch Described by Commissioner Balch to Boston Club.

It was into a strange but exceedingly interesting corner of the animal kingdom that Commissioner Francis N. Balch led his fellow members of the Boston Malacological Club at a recent meeting, that of the shellless shellfish. The division of malacology considers that class of animals most popularly known as snails, of which the clam, quahog and oyster are the most familiar forms that come to the table in this country. These are but a portion of the group better studied than others that live in the sea, which have nothing in the way of a definite shell to protect them from their enemies. From this uncovered condition and other peculiarities the larger classification gives them the name of Nudibranch.

Although there are many of these on the New England coast, almost nothing is known about them, for the reason that they are very irregular in their coming, difficult of preservation, having no hard parts that may be cleaned, and put on the mantleshelf, and moreover are of a nervous organization similar to that of some of the starfish which induces them to break themselves to pieces when alarmed. The tropical forms, which are very brilliant in color, have been pretty well studied, and the speaker noted that scientists of New England know more of the Nudibranches of the Philippines than of those of their own coast.

Dec. 16.

PRICES GOOD AT T WHARF.

BUT DEALERS HAVE LITTLE NEW STOCK TO WORK UPON THIS MORNING.

Two pollockers, a little bay netter, and one of the market boats are all that greeted the T wharf dealers who were looking for fish this morning.

Yesterday, after the morning report, sch. Esperanto, which had been fishing down off Cape Breton shore, came in with a fine fare, 58,000 pounds and sold at figures which mean a fine stock and share.

Sch. Catherine and Ellen, another of the off-shore fleet, also came in yesterday and sold.

This morning haddock brought \$5 and large cod the same. Hake were from \$3.75 to \$5 and pollock \$3.

Boston Arrivals.

The fares and prices in detail are: Sch. Esperanto, 5,000 haddock, 20,000 cod, 3000 hake.

Sch. Catherine and Ellen, 13,000 haddock, 6000 cod, 15,000 hake, 1500 cusk.

Sch. Helen B. Thomas, 4000 haddock, 5600 cod, 2500 hake, 1000 cusk, 500 pollock.

Sch. Hobo, 2000 cod.

Sch. Vilking, 6000 pollock.

Sch. Winnifred, 1000 pollock.

Haddock, \$5 per cwt.; large cod, \$5; market cod, \$3; hake, \$3.75 to \$5; pollock, \$3.

Dec. 16.

THICK STORM VESSELS AT SEA.

NO ARRIVALS AT THIS PORT THIS MORNING—HARBOR COVERED WITH VAPOR.

The near zero weather set the harbor ashiver this morning and it really looked like winter along the waterfront. Outside the vapor clouds could be seen, while quite a bit of ice formed in the docks and the vessels at the wharves showed a waterline of white iciness.

The watchmen on the vessels and at the firms saw the weather change after 1 o'clock from a howling easterly snowstorm and considerable wind to a cold northwester, clear and cold and the thermometer down to the zero mark.

There were no arrivals from offshore yesterday afternoon or last night, and the storm which shut in pretty thick the latter part of the afternoon would probably have caused any prudent big fellow coming on the land, to haul off and wait until it cleared. Some of the market boats came in and joined the large number already snug at the wharves. Naturally there was nothing doing in the herring torching line.

There will be nothing doing in the sailing line today, as it is blowing a regular young gale outside.

Today's Arrivals and Receipts.

The arrivals in detail today are as follows:

- Sch. Emerald, shore.
- Sch. Motor, shore.
- Sch. Rebecca, shore.
- Sch. Jubilee, shore.
- Sch. Marguerite Haskins, shore.
- Sch. Massasoit, shore.

Today's Fish Market.

Bay of Islands salt herring, \$4.50 per bbl., Bonne Bay salt herring \$3.75 per bbl., pickled herring \$5 per bbl.

Eastern deck handline salt cod, \$5.55 per cwt.; for large \$5 for mediums and \$5 for snappers.

Bank halibut 12 cts. per lb. for white, 11 cts. for gray, with the heads on.

Salt cusk, large, \$2.50 per cwt.; medium, \$2.

Salt haddock, \$2 per cwt.

Salt hake, \$2 per cwt.

Salt pollock, \$2 per cwt.

Splitting prices for fresh fish:

Codfish, large, \$2.50 per cwt.; medium, \$1.80; snappers, 80c.

Cusk, large, \$1.75 per cwt.; medium \$1.30; snappers, 50c.

Haddock, \$1.10 per cwt.; hake, \$1.30 per cwt.; dressed pollock, \$1.20 per cwt.; round pollock, \$1.15 per cwt.

Georges handline salt cod, \$5.25 for large and \$4.75 for medium.

Fresh round pollock, \$1.20 per cwt., gutted \$1.30.

Dec. 16.

Portland Fish News.

The fishing schooner Marjie Turner was laying at Central wharf Wednesday taking out her iron ballast and in its place she will take on 70 tons of salt for shipment to the coast of Newfoundland and return with a full load of salt cod now in storage there for Lord Brothers of Portland.

Dec. 17.

French Trawler Held.

The troubles of the French trawler Baleine seem not to be settled the vessel still being held at Dominion wharf, at North Sydney, C. B. Whatever the damages against the trawler when she was first seized several weeks ago, they must now run up to a pretty penny. The indications are the Baleine will be the first of its kind to make North Sydney her headquarters.

Discussed Lobster Legislation.

A meeting was held yesterday at the residence of Commissioner Daniel B. Fearing, at Newport, R. I., of the Rhode Island inland fishery commission with representatives of the Massachusetts and Connecticut commissions, who discussed among other topics uniform legislation on fisheries and especially pertaining to lobsters.

Herring News.

Sch. Slade Gorton sailed from Can-so, N. S., Wednesday.

The Lunenburg, N. S., sch Juniata cleared from her home port Wednesday, for Bay of Islands, N. F., for a cargo of frozen herring.